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better in the juvenile system through the bills that were introduced last year.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Discussion of the Thompson amendment? Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, members of the Legislature, as most of you know, this is where I've spent most of my life, is working with kids in trouble. And I want to say, first of all, thank you to Senator Thompson for all the work that she's done on this bill, to Judiciary Committee. Then I want to mention what Senator Chambers just said a little bit ago and I support what he said about youth. We need to do more to take care of our youth than what we are today; and I believe this amendment, this bill, brings us to some accountability to the youth that we have in our systems. Some time back in 36 years that I've been working in, with juveniles, in the court system, a juvenile court judge, and I have no idea who that court judge was, it might have been Judge Hart from years ago or Judge Colleen Buckley or one of the Juvenile Court judges in Lancaster County, placed a kid in an out-of-home, out-of-state placement and the bill was sent to the county and the county paid it. Nothing in statute says that the county's liable for that bill, but they paid it, and that has snowballed to the fact now that the counties, Lancaster County and Douglas County, have been paying millions of dollars for out-of-home place...out-of-state placement. As Senator Thompson mentioned, those kids that are placed out of state, we have no idea what they're doing in their homes or their type of facilities. We understand the programs. We've been sent paper programs. We've had maybe people once or twice tour them programs and see what they are, but we don't have the accountability on a daily basis for the kids of Nebraska that are being placed out of state. Yes, this bill has a big fiscal note on it. It has a fiscal note that the state should pay what it was originally supposed to pay for in the beginning by putting these kids in Kearney and Geneva, which we pay the bill for, but they have far reached their capacity years ago so we had to reach out to other states. We need to know what these kids are doing. We need to be more understanding of what is going on in that whole juvenile system. And you talk to people and they say, we agree, we agree, we agree, but we never get